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Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 22. Human rights

1. At its 35th meeting, on 24 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 22)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work proposed in this section and it was emphasized that the promotion of human rights was one of the priorities of the United Nations in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. The view was expressed that the programme of activities proposed in this section correctly reflected the objectives of programme 19 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. The increase of resources for subprogrammes 1 and 2 was welcomed, but concern was expressed that the decrease of resources under subprogramme 3 could negatively affect the implementation of the proposed activities.

4. The view was expressed that the proposed resource increase for the section as a whole was too small, *inter alia*, as regards the right to development and the effective functioning of the human rights instruments, and that the proposed resources would not be sufficient

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to implement all mandated activities. Concern, however, was expressed about the increase of resources for travel and consultancy.

5. Concern was expressed that the resources proposed for activities related to development are not commensurate with the needs and requirements for full implementation of all mandates in this area.

6. The view was expressed that the programme of work was well-balanced. Support was expressed for the proposed increase of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York. Concern was expressed that the strengthening of the Office in New York was diverting resources from substantive activities.

7. The view was expressed that increased coordination and cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights should be further encouraged among all United Nations organs, bodies and specialized agencies.

8. Concern was expressed that the narrative of the section was not, in some instances, in line with the text of the medium-term plan and that some non-mandated activities had been included.

9. Concern was expressed that not all human rights mandates had been equally treated. In this context, it was stressed that, in view of the historical neglect of the right to development, there is a need to give a special attention to the full implementation of all activities related to the right to development.

10. Concern was also expressed that, once again, no detailed information on the distribution of resources among subprogrammes has been provided, despite observations made in this regard on previous budgetary proposals, to facilitate the review of the budget proposals by the General Assembly. In this context, regret was expressed that, because of this lack of information on the distribution of resources, it was not possible to review in detail resources allocated to the right to development under subprogramme 1 and to technical cooperation under subprogramme 3, both of particular importance in the context of the programme. The fact that the biggest increase of resources is foreseen for subprogramme 1, Right to development, research and analysis, was welcomed.

11. Concern was expressed that economic, social and cultural rights were not sufficiently and appropriately addressed.

12. It was noted with concern that the resources proposed for activities related to development are not commensurate with the needs and requirements for full implementation of all mandates in that area.

13. Concern was expressed that answers to questions raised during the debate were not comprehensive, clear and sufficient in all cases and did not facilitate deliberations on this matter. Appreciation was expressed to the representative of the Secretary-General for the exhaustive information provided.

14. The view was expressed that resources for activities related to future mandates of the Economic and Social Council cannot be included in the proposed programme budget since this is in contravention of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986. In this regard, General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, in particular paragraph 79, and also resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989 were recalled.

15. It was noted with concern that some activities had been included without any legislative mandate by the General Assembly. In this context, the inclusion of the elaboration of development indicators was also noted with concern.

16. Concern was expressed over the significant increase of resources for the human rights programme, including the proposed establishment of seven new Professional posts, the highest staffing proposal compared to other sections of the programme budget.

17. The view was expressed that too much emphasis had been placed on human rights at the international level, but that the synergy of human rights at the international and national levels was not sufficiently highlighted. Concern was expressed that the civil and political rights were not adequately addressed. The view was expressed that more detailed information regarding special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, especially the number of special rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups, should be included in the budget document. The view was also expressed that these activities should be adequately funded in the budget.

18. The view was expressed that the activities regarding the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance should be more emphasized and that reference should also be made to the regional preparatory meetings.

19. The view was expressed that the integration of human rights components in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks might lead to objective and/or biased actions, which would deprive developing countries of the right to development in a different form.

20. Concern was expressed about the inclusion in the narrative on expected accomplishments of subprogramme 2 of an increase in the number of States parties to the human rights treaties and in the number of ratifications. The view was expressed that the decision on ratification as well as on rationalization and adaptation of the human rights machinery at the national level was the prerogative of individual sovereign countries rather than an initiative taken by the departments concerned.

21. The view was expressed that resources had been included in the proposal for activities not yet mandated. It was suggested that they would alternatively be better financed under the contingency fund after mandates had been confirmed by the Economic and Social Council.

22. The view was expressed that the explanations regarding the non-inclusion of resources for the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families should be couched in a more positive way. This would avoid giving the impression that a judgement had already been made that the Convention would not enter into force in the biennium 2000–2001. The view was also expressed that more details on the activities of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants should be included in the narrative. It was also suggested that the programme should be revised to reflect the discussions taken by the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

23. Concern was expressed about the necessity to provide translation services to the special thematic rapporteurs so that they can consider the information given to them by Governments in different languages and ensure the incorporation of such information in their reports.

24. Concern was expressed that neither the Human Rights Centre in Africa nor the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights were mentioned in the narrative.

25. The authenticity of allegations and sources for the allegations received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was questioned.

26. The view was expressed that the inclusion in the section of activities related to human rights indicators (para. 22.49 (b) (iii)) and the preparation of new standards (para. 22.47) was not mandated by intergovernmental organs.

27. The view was expressed that the reference to "Paris-principles institutions" in paragraph 22.75 and to "integration of human rights components in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks" in paragraph 22.79 (c) (i), should be deleted. The view was expressed that paragraph 22.49 (b) (iii) should also be deleted.

28. Concern was expressed that there was no strategy elaborated for the implementation of the right to development and that no research and analytical studies on economic rights and on poverty and human rights had been carried out under any of the subprogrammes. Appreciation of the clear strategy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the right to development was expressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

29. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 with the following modifications:

(a) In the first sentence of paragraph 22.1, after the words "realization of", the word "all" should be added;

(b) In the second sentence of paragraph 22.1, after the words "the programme is based on", the phrase "the revised medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/53/6/Rev.1)" should be added;

(c) Paragraph 22.5 should be deleted;

(d) Paragraph 22.26 should be replaced with the following sentence: "Resource requirements for the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 2000–2001 will be submitted when the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families enters into force";

(e) In the first sentence of paragraph 22.45, the words "The activities will focus on" should be replaced by "The primary objectives of this subprogramme will include promotion and protection of the right to development. In this regard the activities will be";

(f) In the first sentence of paragraph 22.48, the word "implementation" should be replaced with the words "promotion and protection of";

(g) In the last line of paragraph 22.49 (c) (i), after "ICRC", the words ", OIC, OAU and OAS" should be inserted.

30. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly carefully consider the narrative of paragraph 22.49 (b) (iii), bearing in mind the ongoing consideration of the issues contained in that paragraph.